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ELECTORAL REFORM.

The essential features of the electoral reform bill proposed by Counselor Sárvain and his ministerial associates last May, and which were afterwards passed with some slight modifications by the Chamber of Deputies, were: 1, election by direct vote instead of through electoral colleges as at present; 2, the extension of full political rights to non-catholics and naturalized citizens; 3, a prohibition upon certain officials among becoming candidates within the territory over which they have authority; 4 establishing boards of registry from the highest tax-payers in each district; 5, the election of deputies separately and by districts instead of collectively and by provinces now.

The reforms sought through these changes in the electoral system were in many respects radical, but they were no more so than the necessities of the case required. It had long been patent to every thoughtful observer that Brazilian elections were farcical in the highest degree. They were never the expression of the popular will, the result of a popular opinion. Ministries were made and unmade at the sole will of the Emperor and when these changes brought about a change in the dominant party, the elections have never been known to result adversely to the party actually in power. It was not surprising, therefore, that a liberal minority of sixteen in the Chamber of Deputies under the conservative ministry of the Duque de Caxias in 1877 became an absolute majority under the liberal ministry of Counselor Siminibí in 1878; and were there to be a change in the dominant party to-morrow the complete reversal of this majority in the ensuing election would be not only not surprising but it might be predicted with absolute certainty. The election was therefore only a pliant instrument in the hands of the government and meant no more than the famous *platitudes* of Napoleon III.

The peculiar character of elections enabled the government to easily control them and to secure the return of its chosen candidates. In a country whose social institutions make so wide a gap between the high and the low, where communication is difficult, where education is limited and almost wholly confined to the ruling class, and where the absence of a thoroughly independent and enterprising press, outside the few large cities of to-day, keeps back that wider knowledge of the world and the consequent discussion of men and principles—in a country where all these things are found such a thing as a sound, independent public opinion is an utter impossibility. It follows, therefore, that a primary election, especially under the complicated routine of the present system, is nothing more than a formality, a sham. And in the secondary elections, where electoral colleges meet and elect, the result is even more absurd and fruitless for the simple reason that the machine manipulation of the primary elections has secured the electors desired, and their subsequent management by a government with places and funds at its disposal is a very slight task. An election therefore is nothing more than a fictitious popular expression of the ministerial will.

It is evident that Counselor Sárvain entered upon the task of forming the present ministry with a sincere determination to put a stop to these abuses, and to secure such other reforms as would render Brazilian elections something more than cut and dried endorsements of machine intrigues. With this purpose in view the useless formality of an electoral college was cut off and the elections were made direct. That crying injustice in Brazilian politics—the imposition of political disabilities upon non-catholics and naturalized citizens—was removed. A prohibition was placed upon the undue and not infrequent influence brought to bear upon elections by influential public officials in order to secure their own return to the legislature, very often to a life position in the Senate itself. The

management of local elections was taken out of the hands of the machine men and placed in the hands of the highest taxpayers of the district. And finally, the members of the popular branch of the legislature were to be chosen by districts, in order that the principle of representation might be more nearly attained, and that local as well as provincial interests might be represented. No one could believe that these reforms would at once secure pure and independent elections, but as they were necessary steps in that direction they were received with general approval.

After some unimportant modifications and the suppression of the clause creating boards of registry from the highest tax-payers, the bill was speedily passed by the Chamber of Deputies and sent up to the Senate, where it remained in committee until the 27th ult. In the final report of that committee, the electoral reform project, of which so much had been hoped, has come forth shorn of nearly every feature upon which a real reform is based. Sufficiently complicated at first it is now even more so, and to such an extent that every possible benefit from a direct vote will be lost. The committee has stricken out everything pertaining to the removal of political disabilities and the enforcement of the oath, thus defeating the most essential and vital element of reform in the whole project. With what the property limitation on voters, and the restrictions on account of religion and nationality, there remains even less freedom under the proposed law than under the laws now in vigor. The election of deputies by districts is retained but under a discarded law of 1855 and in conformity with legislation heretofore to be provided—all of which means that the concession will be so limited and restricted as to be shorn of every possible benefit.

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TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

Nations should not only take a decennial census of population, but also draw up a balance-sheet every ten years of what progress they may have made in industry, wealth, commerce, instruction and morality. We have only to compare the returns of the Board of Trade for 1870-80 with those of ten years ago to see the advancement of the United Kingdom as follows:—Increase.—Population, 11 per cent.; revenue, 8 per cent.; public wealth, 30 per cent.; commerce, 13 per cent.; shipping, 16 per cent.; textile manufactures, 29 per cent.; mines, 45 per cent.; railway traffic, 45 per cent.; post office, 45 per cent.; schools, 122 per cent.; public morality, 13 per cent.; welfare of poor, 19 per cent. Population has not grown so fast as in previous decades, but the ratio of increase is still much higher than the European average. It was 13 per cent. in England and 10 in Scotland, while Ireland showed a decline of 1 per cent., owing to emigration. The total number of British emigrants was 1,654,000, from which, including those who returned, the balance or net loss, would be 875,000, and if these were added to the actual population the increase would reach 14 per cent. Revenue or taxation is lighter now than it was ten years ago, the average for last year being 48s. per inhabitant. In the same interval the National Debt has been reduced by 24 millions sterling. Public wealth is pretty accurately measured by the income-tax valuation, which is now £134,000,000 higher than in 1869, an increase of £4 per inhabitant; even in Ireland the ratio is higher by £2 per head. It seems that the average income varies in the three kingdoms as follows—£19 in England, £15 in Scotland, £7 in Ireland, and £7 for the whole United Kingdom. The accumulation of wealth among the working classes, as represented by deposits in savings banks, has risen from £1 to 76 millions sterling, being almost 50 per cent. Compared with population, the savings deposited since 1869 have been 18s. per inhabitant in England, the same in Scotland and 4s. in Ireland. It is, furthermore, worthy of observation that the deposit in the Bank of England reached 39½ millions sterling in 1879 against 22 millions in 1869, the increase being relatively almost double as great as in the savings banks.

Commerce has likewise grown faster than population, showing last year a ratio of £17 18s. 3d. per inhabitant against £17 4s. 6d. in 1869. Many people erroneously suppose that it is only our imports that increase, while our exports decline. Sufice it to say that the exports of 1879 were 12 millions sterling, being almost twice those of 1869, being an increase of 5 per cent.—Our merchant shipping (not including colonial) has risen 860,000 tons, but the effective carrying power is almost doubled, owing to the enormous development of steam traffic. In 1869 steamers were 17 per cent. of our shipping, the present ratio being 38 per cent., and, if we count them as four times the power of sailing vessels, we find our carrying power is now 14 million tons, as against 3½ million tons ten years ago. If we include colonial, the total British tonnage would be equivalent to 19½ million tons, the total for all nations being a little over 40 million. Manufactures, minerals, and railway returns show at a glance the progress of internal industry. Our mills in 1879 consumed 1,615 million pounds of cotton and wool, against 1,248 millions in 1869, an increase of 29 per cent.; while our mining industry, rose 45 per cent.; the value of coal, iron, &c., extracted last year amounting to 64 millions, against 44 millions in 1869. By a remarkable coincidence, our railway traffic has grown in the same ratio as minerals, the gross earnings having risen from £21,000,000 to £39,400,000. Another coincidence is the post office increase, also 45 per cent.—viz., 847 million letters in 1869, and 1,239 millions last year.—*The Times*, Sept. 3, 1880.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—The September receipts of the Carangola railway were 55,216\$300.

—It is reported that a revision of the tariff of the Rio Pedro II railway will soon take place.

—The August receipts of the Barreiro railway were 19,009\$88 and the expenditures 14,963\$720.

—The September receipts of the Pirapetinga railway were 15,783\$430. The number of passengers carried was 1,812.

—An extension of the Pirapetinga railway is projected from Pirapetinga to Santo Antônio de Pádua. The distance is 38 kilometers.

—Three engineers have been dismissed from the Paulo Afonso railway because they were not in accord with the new chief engineer, Dr. Mores.

—The British brig *Yousie* arrived at Pernambuco on the 5th inst. from Liverpool with 6,731 sleepers and 34 packages of iron material for the Linhares railway.

—The British bark *Rialto* arrived at Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, the 17th inst. from Fernandina, United States, with 11,443 pine sleepers, and 934 packages of iron and office material for the *Matriz a Nova Caxia* railway.

—The September receipts of the Leopoldina railway were 16,470\$675, as against 18,738\$800 for the same month of 1879. The coffee traffic amounted to 3,479.8 tons. The number of passengers carried was 1,172, of which 5,820 were 1st class and 4,352 were 2nd and 3rd.

—The manufacture of pins in English factories amounts to 50,000,000 a day, of which 37,000,000 are made in Birmingham. The weight of wire consumed is about 1,275½ tons per annum, valued at about £146,500.

—The August receipts of the Feira de Sant'Anna branch of the Imperial Central Bahia railway were 8,663\$970 and the expenditures 8,892\$890. The number of passengers carried was 2,058, of which 1,202 were 1st class and 1,796 were 2nd class. The freight traffic amounted to 375.6 tons.

—Decree 7,838 of the 4th inst. concedes a 50 years privilege to Benedito Antônio da Silva, Adolpho Augusto Pinto and Luiz Augusto Pinto for the construction and use of a railway from S. João do Rio Claro, the terminus of the Paulista line, to S. Carlos do Pinhal, province of São Paulo.

—Decree 7,839 of August 26, authorizes the *Compagnie Générale de Chemin de Fer Brésiliens* to transact business in the empire of Brazil. The life of the company is fixed at ninety-nine years. It is now engaged in constructing the Parana railway from Paranaguá to Curitiba.

—A special freight train on the Leopoldina railway, carrying coffee from Cataguases to Porto Novo do Cauá, ran off the track near Recreio on the 30th ult. The accident was caused by a broken rail. Three cars were thrown off and broken up, the coffee being completely ruined by dirt and rain. One brakeman was seriously injured and another had a leg broken. The line is said to be in a very bad state.

PROVINCIAL DEBT OF GOIÁS.

According to the late report of the president of Goiás the public debt of that province on the 31st of December, 1879, amounted to 79,708\$907, as follows:

Provincial apostolies.....	51,600\$000
Floating debt loans, 6 per cent.....	10,993\$105
do do 8 per cent.....	9,000\$000
Unpaid salaries and subventions of previous years.....	7,282\$143
do of current year.....	835\$599

The sum owing to the provincial treasury at the same date amounted to a total of \$1,521\$887, of which only 38,259\$666 is classified as "collectable." The sum of 10,664\$113 is classified as "insolvable."

A comparison of the present debt with the debt statement of the preceding two years shows that it has been considerably diminished. At the close of the fiscal year 1877-78 the total indebtedness of the province was 117,281\$153. In the following half year that amount was largely diminished, the total on the 31st of December following being 80,863\$844—a reduction of 27,473\$109. The total reduction in the debt of the province during the calendar year 1879 was 10,995\$137.

—Decree 7,830, of the 21st ult., grants an interest guarantee of 7 per cent. on 400,000\$ for the construction of a central sugar factory on the Santa Anna fazenda, Vassouras, province of Rio de Janeiro.

—The total number of immigrants, including all 1st class passengers entering this port during the month of July was 2,031, of which 131 were subsidized. The number of departures was 501, of which 216 went to Paraná, 165 to São Catharina, 86 to Rio Grande do Sul and 34 to São Paulo.

—Decree 7,805, of August 26, grants permission to Domingos Maria Gonçalves to incorporate a company under the title "Companhia Zootécnica e Agrícola do Brasil" for the purpose of founding agricultural establishments for poor boys. The capital is fixed at 1,500,000\$, and the scheme must be carried into effect within three years.

—Colonel Sérgio Volneio, envoy extraordinary of a special mission from Romania to Brazil, had audience of the Emperor on the 2nd inst. His mission is to notify Brazil of the independence of Romania, and to present the Emperor with the grand cross of the Order of the Star of Romania.

—We are under obligations to the secretary of the New York Chamber of Commerce, George Wilson, Esq., for the 2nd annual report of that corporation. The report is a carefully-prepared volume of some 500 pages, and contains an elaborate resume of the commerce of New York for the fiscal year 1879-80, together with valuable tables of the general commerce of the United States, as compiled by the Bureau of Statistics.

—Deputy Fausto Leme, of the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly, believes in protecting native industry, and as one of the means he proposes a lottery of 5,000,000\$, divided into 500,000 tickets, the product of which shall be applied to the founding of agricultural stations in various municipalities. It is certainly a beautiful scheme—so beneficial, in fact, that it ought to be extended just a little further. We propose that lotteries be substituted for lottery itself, and that everybody shall live on the proceeds. In such case, every man should be "protected" in his right to draw at least one large prize per annum, or, if he can make good his claim to it. There's nothing like living with your head in another man's pocket, especially if that pocket contains "portable property."

THE manufacture of pins in English factories amounts to 50,000,000 a day, of which 37,000,000 are made in Birmingham. The weight of wire consumed is about 1,275½ tons per annum, valued at about £146,500.

THE RIO NEWS

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EDITORIAL ROOMS—8 Rua São Pedro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 15TH, 1880.

We see by our River Plate exchanges that the recent trip of Col. W. P. Tisdell to Buenos Ayres in connection with the extension of the United States and Brazil steamship line to the River Plate, resulted in a successful negotiation with the Argentine government and a special message from the president of the republic to the legislature asking for a subsidy. In view of the circumstance that there had long been a desire on the part of our Platine neighbors for a direct steamship communication with the United States the manager of the Roach line found very little difficulty in arranging terms, and there will probably be no difficulty whatever in securing the necessary appropriations. At the outset the company asked a monthly subsidy of 10,000 hard dollars and a contract for ten years, but as these terms were deemed too high by the Argentine government they were afterwards reduced to an annual subsidy of 100,000 hard dollars and a contract for seven years. The preliminaries being arranged, President Avellaneda addressed a message to Congress on the 27th ult. setting forth the advantages of the proposed service and the terms offered by the company. In strong contrast with the delays and intrigues connected with such matters here, the Argentine Congress will unquestionably give prompt attention to the proposition, and will decide it either one way or the other without any petty restrictions and onerous conditions. The *Herald* believes that the project will be approved at once and that the service will be begun at an early date. It is very probable that one of the conditions imposed will be a direct service during the hot season in order to avoid all risk of yellow fever infection from Brazilian ports. The extension of this service to the River Plate will be a decided advantage to the commercial relations between the Platine republics and the United States and will also do much toward strengthening the position of the company in its effort to build up a regular American transportation service along this coast. It may not be that such a service will be fully successful at the outset, but in view of the rapidly-increasing business between the countries in question, and the possible future expansion of that business, nothing can be more certain than that the enterprise, if well conducted, will be highly successful at no distant day. It is to be hoped that the Brazilian legislature will lose no further time in settling its own affairs with the company, and being as prompt and straightforward as the Argentine Republic promises to be.

The second distribution of the emancipation fund, now taking place, assigns the sum of 94,180\$822 to Pará as the quota for that province. The slave population upon which this quota is based is placed by the minister of agriculture at 28,629. According to the official report of the slave population of Pará on the 31st of December, 1878, the total number then held in the province was 27,790, as follows:

Manumitted, Sep. 30, 1873, under the law of 1871.....	31,747
Law of 1871, by judicial decision.....	66
Emancipated from other provinces.....	2413
34,226	
Removed from the province.....	2,071
Died.....	2,058
Free by voluntary act.....	1,244
Free by legal decision.....	950
Free by emancipation fund.....	76
6,435	
Slave population, Dec. 31, 1878.....	27,791

From these figures it will be seen that the decrease in the slave population of Pará between September 30, 1873, and December 31, 1878—five years and three months—was 3,956, or at the rate of 753 1/2 per annum. Making allowances for the natural increase in this rate which should follow with the lapse of time, there should be a further decrease of 1,130 between January 1, 1879, and June 30, 1880, and the actual slave population at the later date should have been not over 26,655. Taking into consideration the surprising statement in the report for 1878 that the total number of deaths since 1873 was only 2,088, or at the average annual rate of 12.5 per thousand, we may feel sure that this decrease is much below the actual figures. The death rate among the slaves in this city in 1877 was 35.5 per thousand, and everyone who knows the harsh treatment of the plantation slave as compared with those of this city will not easily believe that there is any such wide discrepancy in favor of the former. Leaving this manifest error

out of account, however, we have an apparent increase in the number of slaves of 1,974. It has been popularly supposed that the northern provinces are trying to get rid of their slaves by sending them south, and this supposition is based upon large and regular shipments of slaves from every northern port, including Pará. Whence, therefore, comes this increase of **two thousand and slaves?** To say that there has been a decrease of 3,113 since the matriculation of 1873 will not answer the inquiry, for it is nearly two thousand short of what it should be—and that, too, under the most favorable estimates. To ascribe the discrepancy to faulty statistics is also insufficient, for the law makes no provisions for errors. On the contrary, it expressly provides that all slaves not registered on the 30th of September, 1873, are thereafter free. Whence, then, comes this increase? We have before called attention to the startling results of gradual emancipation, and we have shown by official figures that there is an apparent illegal increase in the slave population of the whole empire of over **one hundred and twenty thousand**—and to this day that statement stands undisputed. We have called attention to the illegal reduction of free persons to slavery, and the sale of *ingenios*—but as yet no one has been punished for it. We have also called attention—over one year ago—to the enslavement of Indian children on the Amazon, and that fact has since been repeated and confirmed in the *Jornal do Comércio*—but to this day no step has been publicly taken to check that accursed traffic. How much of this illegal increase in the slave population of Pará is due to the traffic in Indian children, can not be accurately determined, but that it forms no small part of it there can not be the slightest doubt.

There can be no question whatever as to the need and desire of Brazil for foreign capital—it is a need which every new country finds in some degree, and it is a desire which is fully warranted as a means of developing natural resources and initiating national enterprise. With such aims in view the investment of foreign capital within the country is a national blessing; it is a source of national wealth and prosperity as well as a source of profit to the national. It follows, therefore, that a true national policy, as well as common honesty, requires that the integrity of contracts and the security of investments shall be most strictly observed and guarded. Strong as are the ethical reasons for this course—and such reasons in themselves should always decide every disputed point—they are supported in every sense by the material interests of the country. The facility of obtaining capital and low rates of interest are always dependent upon the security and good character of investments. Onerous conditions, quibbles, and breaches of contract are therefore impolitic in the highest degree, as they can only lead to the exaction of such conditions and terms on the part of investors as are made necessary by the extra risks incurred. With these simple principles to determine all conflicting interests, it is still possible for the minister of agriculture to issue a dispatch of the following tenor, which appeared in the *Diário Oficial* of the 12th inst. in reply to a petition from the contractor now engaged in constructing a system of rain-water drainage in this city:

Joseph Haenoe, contractor of the rain-water drainage works of this city, asking indemnification for the time his works were stopped in virtue of a project of municipal law, whose approval is now under consideration.—As soon as the project of law is passed, which will be done as soon as possible, the contractor will be subject to it. For this reason he can receive no indemnification, because on the one hand the law will be a law of the empire and upon the other the legislative powers upon which the approval of the petitioner's contract was dependent, has already presented it. However, in view of the fact that the contract mentioned in the petition was under express obligation to comply with the dispositions and regulations of the municipal council. In view of this the claim is rejected.

Without entering into a discussion of this special case, which concerns us at this time only as an illustration, we are definitely informed in this official dispatch that contracts are subject to future legislative acts and that no claim for damages arising from such legislation will be admitted. The principle being established, it follows that a contractor, who has invested his capital in a public work, will be compelled by the highest power of state to submit to any and every condition which an irresponsible and capricious body of men may see fit to impose, whether or not such condition may involve a radical change in the terms of the contract and a consequent loss. Under this ruling it follows that a contractor is subject to all future legislative acts, regulating, modifying, or even changing his contract; logically, the contract could be wholly suspended, should the general or municipal legislatures so decide, and there would remain to him no remedy whatever. On such grounds, a contractor is presumed to have risked his capital and signed his agreement with closed eyes, to have placed

his money wholly at the disposal of outside parties regardless of consequences. We do not believe, however, that this extraordinary and arbitrary ruling of the minister of agriculture will be implicitly accepted by foreign capitalists, and that they will choose to enter into any further contacts with this government on any such bases. The ruling is so clearly unjust and arbitrary that, if persisted in, there remains not the slightest security for investments in enterprises of a public character. If there is no law in Brazil guaranteeing the integrity of contracts, and if such rulings are to be enforced against contractors, then it is best that capitalists should be fully informed of that fact. The minister of agriculture should remember that there are personal and property rights which even a government is bound to respect.

The Chamber of Deputies finally succeeded in getting a quorum together on the 13th inst.

An international food exhibition was opened in London on the 13th inst. It will be closed on the 20th.

Fifty vessels in port have been visited by the Sailors' Mission during the first half of the present month.

A *brigade* in the Praia da Glória was attacked and robbed by a gang of thieves in the morning of the 11th. No arrests.

During the quarter ending September 30, the National Library was visited by 3,142 readers who consulted 3,274 books.

The minister of foreign affairs, Counselor Pedro Luiz, has been decorated with the grand cross of the Order of the Star of Roumania.

Comendador José Machado Coelho de Castro was elected president and the Visconde de Tocantins director of the Banco do Brasil on the 4th inst.

At the requisition of the chief of police Dr. Arístides César de Almeida, ex-treasury inspector of Pará, and of the Santos custom house, has arrested on sentence for embezzlement of been public money.

In September the number of children placed in the wheel of the foundlings' hospital was 37. The number of deaths was 12, placed out to nurse 22, remaining in the institution at the end of the month 194.

On the 5th inst. the carriage of the chief of the fire department ran over a Spaniard in Rua do Visconde do Rio Branco and injured him so that he died a few moments after. The chief and his coachman drove on, however, but were finally stopped by the people, who compelled the surrender of the latter to arrest. The recklessness with which public officials drive through the narrow streets of this city is the cause of very many accidents, and it is to be hoped that this unhappy result will now lead to a rigid suppression of the abuse.

The minister of justice has charged the chief of police with the task of preparing a law for regulation of domestic servants. A more timely net that this can not be conceived. We know one servant who uses a quart of kerosene every morning in building a fire; another one who soaks a shirt in a kettle of water half an hour and then pronounces it soup; another one who gives her lover a dinner in the kitchen three times a week; another one who uses his master's hair oil and tooth brush daily; another one who kicks the house dog every time a dish breaks itself and so on through a long and soul-trying list. All such offenses should be made penal, and should be punished with the severest penalties. Before this one need, all such matters as election fights, police courts, slave punishments, etc., sink into insignificance. They can ride their time until the domestic servant is finally and fully regulated, and until the department of justice has evolved a law which shall exactly define his position in the world.

DIED.

BRIERLEY.—At Mossley Hall near Congleton, Cheshire, England, July 13th, 1880, Mary the beloved wife of the Revd. James Brierley, M. A., J. P.

COMMERCIAL

October 14th, 1880

Per value of the Brazilian mil reis (\$500), gold 57 d.
do do do do in U. S.
coin at \$4 80 per £1. 16s. 54 44 cent.
do \$1.00 (U. S. coin) in Brazilian gold... 5837
do £1. stg. in Brazilian gold... 5839

Bank rate of exchange on London to-day..... 535 d
Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (paper) 57 d.
do do do in U. S.
coin at \$4 80 per £1. 16s. 54 44 cent.

Value of \$1.00 (\$4 80 per £1. stg.) in Brazilian currency (paper)..... 581 14
Value of £1. sterling " " 10 59

EXCHANGE.

Oct. 4.—Market inactive at 23 1/2 d. on London for bank paper, and 23 1/2 to 23 1/4 d. on London and 40 s. on Paris for mercantile paper. Six per cent. 1,033 10 to 1,033 20; sovereigns 10 59 and £100 00 cash.

Oct. 5.—Market firmer and more active, there being a better demand for mercantile on London at 23 1/2 to 23 1/4 d., the greater part of the business being effected at 23 1/4 d. Six per cent. 1,033 20; loan of 1869, 1,402 sovereigns 10 59 to 10 59 30, cash with an increased demand. Banco do Brasil share 277 8.

Oct. 6.—General elevation in bank rates to 23 1/2 d. on London, 40 1/2 s. on Paris and 49 1/2 s. on Hamburg. The quotations for mercantile paper were 23 1/2 d. on London and 400 s. on Paris. Six per cent. 1,033 10 and 1,033 20; sovereigns 10 59 to 10 59 30, cash for the first.

Oct. 7.—Market less active at yesterday's quotations. Sovereigns 10 59 to 10 59 30, cash.

Oct. 8.—Market inactive at unchanged rates. Six per cent. 1,033 20 to 1,033 25.

Oct. 9.—Little business effected at 23 1/2 d. for mercantile paper on London, and 49 1/2 s. for paper on Hamburg. Six per cent. 1,033 20; sovereigns 10 59 to 10 59 30, cash. Navegador Brasileiro shares 12 1/2.

Oct. 11.—Market inactive at 23 1/2 d. on London and 49 1/2 s. on Hamburg for bank paper. Light transactions in mercantile paper on Paris at 37 1/2 s. Six per cent. 1,033 20 and 1,033 25.

Oct. 12.—No changes in quotations. Sovereigns 10 59 to 10 59 30, cash.

The export of precious metals in September amounted to 73,464 70 in gold bars for England.

The Banco do Brasil received 24 more proposals for rural loans on the 4th inst. This raised the total number of proposals received to 124, and the total amount specified to 5,571,000.

A meeting of stockholders of the new land and marine insurance company (Mitsui) was held at the Banco Com. on the 11th inst. Fifty shares stockholders were present, representing 3,735 shares. The company was declared to be finally organized, all legal formalities having been complied with, and it was decided to begin business at once. The Conde de Matosinhos was elected president, and Sr. Joaquim Alves d'Arma and Francisco de Naylor, secretaries.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

A boy was killed at Faxina, S. Paulo, on the 24th ult. by a hallstone.
The cable steamer *Northern* arrived at Santos on the 25th ult., from Sta. Catharina.
The provincial assembly of Minas Geraes held its first session on the 28th ult.
The present indebtedness of the province of Minas Geraes amounts to 1,142,350\$.
Agricultural societies are being organized in various localities of Rio Grande do Sul.
The August receipt of the Uruguayan, Rio Grande, custom house were 34,764\$597.
The *Artists* of Rio Grande says that a steam candle manufactory is soon to be established at Pelotas.
The city of Bahia imposes a tax of 25\$ per annum on every mercantile house in which foreign fireworks are sold.
The net proceeds of the benefit performance at Campinas on the 2nd ult. for the composer Carlos Gomes amounted to 406\$30.

A conflict of interest has arisen between the two neighboring cities, Rio Grande and Pelotas, through an agitation by the latter for a custom house.
The September receipts of the Bahia custom house were, national 807,188\$027, provincial 67,345\$401; internal revenue, national 47,971\$160, provincial 56,629\$533; post-office 5,520\$850.
The authorities of Santo Amaro, Bahia, impose a tax of 10\$ upon every "free African" engaged in trade. The law authorizing this iniquitous tax is No. 2,140 of Sept. 18, 1880, of the provincial assembly.

It is significant that the address of the vice-president of Minas Geraes at the opening of the provincial assembly on the 25th ult. contains a quotation from Leroy Beaulieu. That clears a doubt—Leroy was a Mineiro.

The Santos customs authorities issued a notice on the 5th inst., requiring that certain specified merchandise, now in that custom house, shall be claimed within 30 days, under penalty of its being sent to auction at the expiration of that time.

The *Gazeta do Norte*, of Pindamonhangaba, São Paulo, of the 3rd instant, says that the planters of that locality are about to organize a club, in the interests of free labor. Their aim will be to substitute the slave by the free laborer.

The customs and revenue receipts at Pernambuco during September were as follows:

Customs.....	840,495\$457	1879
Consulado.....	230,394\$15	130,113\$347
Internal revenue..	42,245\$280	38,525\$143

The late storms in Santa Catharina, mentioned in our last issue, caused the overflow of the Rio Itajahy, and the inundation of the village of that name. Forty-eight houses were totally destroyed and a large amount of property was either destroyed or damaged. The loss at Itajahy and in the neighboring colonies is estimated at 2,000,000\$. At last accounts, 28 lives were lost.

The poor prisoners in quod at Nazare, Pernambuco, are threatened with starvation, owing to a reduction in the annual appropriation from 2,000\$ to 600\$. That amount has already been expended and now there is a complete lack of supplies. Efforts are making to meet the emergency by a private subscription. The prisoners threaten to break jail if they are not better cared for.

A poor *mastro* of Palmares, Pernambuco, complains to a police official after this fashion. He was sitting on his horse in the street on the 1st of September, when the police *subdelegado* came up and ordered him to dismount, as he wanted the horse. The *mastro* refused, when he was compelled to dismount and the horse was given to a soldier who rode away on it in company with the *subdelegado*. And for such slight reason the impulsive *mastro* feels aggrieved.

The *Gazeta de Campinas* relates that, some days ago, a man purchased a ticket and a half, for himself and wife, on the Paulista railway. When the agent came to mark the tickets he asked for whom the half ticket was intended. The passenger indicated his wife, to which the agent replied that ladies were required to pay full fare. To this the passenger retorted that the lady was his "dear half" and that he had paid accordingly. That opens up boundless possibilities in the economic world.

The Paulista press is highly indignant at the suppression of the sale of Ypiranga lottery tickets by the authorities in Rio. But what can our São Paulo friends expect? If provincial tickets are to be sold here for 10\$, the local industry will suffer. A chance for 1,000,000\$ at 10\$ has a very great advantage over a chance for 20,000\$ at 20\$. And in so unequal a contest the latter will be certain to go to the wall. Our provincial colleagues should not forget that the economic doctrines of the day do not admit the principle of free trade, not even in lottery tickets. A man must buy and sell just as the penny economists think best.

On the 23rd ult. the police authorities of Para arrested one Manoel da Mata Pimentel on a charge by João Francisco Lagoa that he had stolen 1,500\$ from him. Pimentel asserts, however, that he met Lagoa on the 22nd and offered to sell him 40,000\$ in counterfeit currency for 20,000\$. Lagoa accepted the offer and agreed to pay 3,000\$ in cash, and give his note for 17,000\$, payable in six months. They met again that afternoon, when Pimentel gave Lagoa four packages which he described as "the *consolidado*," and received 1,000\$ in cash with a promise of the remaining 2,000\$ that same evening. Lagoa afterwards discovered that the packages contained nothing but strips of brown paper, and he then had Pimentel arrested for theft. The latter was held to answer the charge. But suppose the packages had contained counterfeit money?

The August receipts of the Ceará postoffice were 2,912\$580.

The Ceará provincial assembly closed its sessions on the 25th ult.

Further reports from Para state that very few of the fugitive slaves escaped who were attacked by the *Anamães* on the Rio Curna. Their settlement was destroyed.

Twelve slaves were freed by the Pernambuco abolition club and four by the academic emancipation club on the 28th ult.—the ninth anniversary of the passage of the Rio Branco emancipation law.

Guaratinguetá, S. Paulo, is to have a theatre to be known as the "Theatro Carlos Gomes." The shareholders had a meeting on the 2nd inst., and finalized the composer.

A quarrel and separation resulted in the shooting of Marin Rodrigues Coelho by his husband, Luiz Gonçalo Lopes, at Goiás on the 2nd ult. The murderer escaped.

The treasury of the province of Amazonas is said to have a surplus of 400,000\$ and the provincial government is without any authorization to spend it. An extraordinary meeting of the assembly is to be convened in order to provide the needed authorizations. An easier way out of the difficulty would be to send an ex-minister of finance up there to govern the province for a few weeks.

The total receipts of the province of Goyaz during the year 1878-79, including a balance from the preceding year of 11,498\$851, were 228,873\$391. The expenditures for the same year were 207,000\$461, leaving a balance of 20,972\$826 of which only 48\$391 represented cash in hand. For the year 1880-81 the receipts are estimated at 202,041\$310 and the expenditures at 220,979\$522, leaving an estimated deficit of 18,929\$212.

The humanity of Brazilian slavery finds a significant illustration in the following incident told by the *Gazeta* of Uberaba, Minas Geraes. At Quelha Anzel, district of Patrocínio, in the early part of July, two men named Manoel Mendes and Romulo—severely whipped a slave. A few days after an uncle of the two men, named José da Cunha, arrived, and on being told of the whipping said that they did not know how to punish, and that the *bicho* had not been properly whipped. The slave then took a razor and literally gashed the poor slave's back into shreds, after which he applied pepper sauce, salt and lemon juice to the wounds. The wife of the unwhipped black, begging pardon for her husband, was also whipped. The man died from his cruel punishment the following day. An inquiry was made by the police, of course, and the neighborhood was highly indignant at the outrage, but nothing is more certain than that these inhuman wretches will escape all punishment for their crime.

The total national debt of Great Britain on the 31st of March last was £775,755,608.

The tea crop of India this year is estimated at 70,000,000 pounds, nearly double the yield of 1878. Ten years ago it was only 14,000,000 pounds.

The Board of Trade returns for the month of July show that the exports of Great Britain amounted to a total value of £20,270,579 against £16,611,122 during the same month of 1879, and the imports to £33,352,598 against £30,186,072 in 1879.

A new coffee disease is said to have attacked the coffee plantations in New Granada. It is a fungoid growth of a greenish color at first but afterwards turning to brown, and is phosphorescent at night. Both leaves and fruit fall from the trees, which are left quite bare. Surely the sulphur treatment so successful in the ordinary disease (*Aspergillus vasculic*) might be tried with advantage in this case also.—*British Mercantile Gazette*.

SHOULD Thomas Birtley, who was in Buenos Ayres for a time when the yellow fever was raging, A. D. 1870, see the announcement of his brother's death in this day's paper, he is earnestly requested to write home immediately, or telegraph.

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Jamaica Ginger.

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CENTRAL DEPOSIT: No. 8 Rio São Pedro

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